

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BRASIL 01819 091350Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----091352Z 086182 /53

P 091320Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0424
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

S E C R E T BRASILIA 1819

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, PARM, BR, GW
SUBJECT: BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL'S VIEWS ON A
POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO THE NUCLEAR QUESTION

REFS: (A) 75 BRASILIA 10250, 10700, (B) 75 STATE 285131,
286688 (C) 76 STATE 2620

1. IN INFORMAL SETTING ON MARCH 7, COUNSELOR SEBASTIAO BARROS, A SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC AND NUCLEAR AFFAIRS AND A MEMBER OF THE BRAZILIAN DELEGATION IN LAST WEEK'S DISCUSSIONS WITH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY, COMMENTED TO EMBOFF ON THE PRESENT CLIMATE FOR US-BRAZIL RELATIONS AND ON THE NUCLEAR PROBLEM.

2. BARROS, WHO SAID HE HAD SPENT MUCH OF THE WEEKEND WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER AT THE OFFICE AND AT HOME, OPENED BY SAYING THAT SOMETHING NEEDED TO BE DONE TO ALLEVIATE THE CURRENT CLIMATE. BARROS OFFERED, HOWEVER, NO SPECIFIC IDEAS. (COMMENT. BARROS GAVE EMBOFF THE IMPRESSION THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE PRESENT CLIMATE AND WERE WONDERING WHAT COULD BE DONE TO IMPROVE IT.)

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3. TURNING TO THE NUCLEAR QUESTION, BARROS SAID HE THOUGHT TWO ELEMENTS WERE KEY TO A SOLUTION. FIRST, BRAZIL SHOULD BE ADMITTED TO THE SUPPLIERS GROUP. (COMMENT. BARROS STRESSED AGAIN THIS POINT LATER IN THE CONVERSATION. DEPT. WILL RECALL (REFTELS) THAT IN LATE 1975 BARROS' PREDECESSOR, COUNSELOR LUIZ FELIPE LAMPREIA, HAD RAISED WITH EMBOFF THE QUESTION OF BRAZILIAN PARTICIPATION IN

THE SUPPLIERS GROUP.) SECOND, BARROS SAID BRAZIL PROBABLY COULD ACCEPT ANY SAFEGUARDS, INCLUDING FULL-SCOPE. HE ADDED THAT BRAZIL WOULD AGREE TO FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS IF OTHER COUNTRIES (READ TO INCLUDE ARGENTINA) DID. EMBOFF ASKED WHETHER BRAZIL WOULD ADHERE TO FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS EVEN IF OTHER COUNTRIES DID NOT AGREE TO DO SO, AT LEAST BY THE TIME BRAZIL HAD TO MAKE ITS DECISION. BARROS RESPONDED THAT HE PERSONALLY THOUGHT THE GOB COULD AGREE TO FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS UNDER THESE CONDITIONS, BUT HE WAS UNSURE. THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE A SUBJECT FOR DIALOGUE, HE SAID.

4. WHAT THE GOB CANNOT ACCEPT, ACCORDING TO BARROS, IS ANY SOLUTION THAT IMPLIES THAT BRAZIL IS IRRESPONSIBLE, EVEN IF IN FACT IT IS, BARROS ADDED WRYL. RESTRAINTS, AS OPPOSED TO SAFEGUARDS, IMPLY IRRESPONSIBILITY, AS DO INTERNATIONALIZED FACILITIES, BARROS ASSERTED. A FURTHER PROBLEM WITH INTERNATIONALIZED FACILITIES ON BRAZILIAN SOIL OR ELSEWHERE, HE SAID, WAS THAT THEY WOULD BECOME "ANOTHER PANAMA CANAL" -- AND BARROS DID NOT THINK THE U.S. WANTED THIS.

5. BARROS OBSERVED THAT JOSEPH NYE'S COMMENT IN THE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE CONSTRUCTION OF ENRICHMENT FACILITIES IN AUSTRALIA AND CANADA HAD RAISED A SHARPLY NEGATIVE REACTION ON THE BRAZILIAN SIDE. BARROS COMMENTED THAT A DETERMINATION ABOUT WHICH COUNTRIES ARE "RESPONSIBLE" IS THE REAL ISSUE, IN U.S. THINKING, ON THE QUESTION OF WHERE ENRICHMENT FACILITIES
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CAN BE LOCATED.

6. BARROS SUGGESTED THAT THE U.S. NOT PLAY UP THE WORD "PRECEDENT," AND IN ITS PLACE THE U.S. SHOULD USE THE WORD "ANTECEDENT" SINCE THE GERMAN AGREEMENT, AFTER ALL, "CAME BEFORE" WHAT IS TAKING PLACE NOW.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR ENERGY, SALES, FOREIGN RELATIONS
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Sent Date: 09-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770081-0108
Format: TEL
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: e56a5ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 BRASILIA 10250, 75 STATE 285131
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3166411
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL'S VIEWS ON A POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO THE NUCLEAR QUESTION
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, PARM, BR, GE, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e56a5ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009